

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Vols train for disasters' spiritual impact

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

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When disaster relief is discussed in Mississippi Baptist circles, focus is typically given to logistics — the number of meals served, how many volunteers responded, and how long response units were deployed.

At this year's Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force training conference, however, volunteers concentrated on the spiritual component of the far-reaching disaster ministry.

The Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), which oversees Mississippi Baptist disaster response, annually sponsors the training conference for new and veteran volunteers who wish to serve on the state convention's Disaster Relief Task Force.

This year's event, held at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko April 1-2, served several purposes. New volunteers "learned the ropes" about disaster relief and what was expected of them as they serve in various disciplines on disaster relief work assignments.

Secondly, volunteers became familiar with the equipment and services used by the task force. Thirdly, the group was exposed to more opportunities for Christian service than ever before.

As always, one highlight for the new volunteers was the preparation of breakfast from the task force's massive 18-wheeler feeding unit for the rest of the group — a 5 a.m. exercise invariably held on a cold morning.

Breakout conferences included orientation for new Task Force members; a discussion of the vision for disaster relief; lessons learned from the last hurricane season; childcare for the future; chainsaws; a Safe Serve update; and North American Mission Board chaplaincy.

Plenary sessions included devotionals; a discussion of feeding, safety, personal apparel, and paperwork; reports from the response to the tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, and on various hurricane deployments; and the spiritual impact of disaster relief.

The latter conference, hosted by Mickey Caison, manager of Adult Volunteer Mobilization at the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, dealt with the spiritual and emotional toll experienced by both disaster victims and those responding to disasters.

"When a disaster happens," said Caison, "there are usually three trains of thought: God is punishing those affected; it is just fate; or it is spiritual warfare."



COME AND GET IT! — Volunteers at the annual Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force training conference at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko on April 1-2 queue up for a chilly early morning breakfast prepared by the "newbies" — the newest members of the group. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

In one telling example, Caison played a music video by a Indonesian singer, in which the song spoke of God's punishment on the Indonesian people. "Maybe we neglected you, O Lord," the lyrics said, "we did not heed your warnings."

Caison used the example of the Israelites in 2 Samuel 12 as an account of God punishing a people. Job, chapter 1 provided an account of fate playing a part in a tragedy. "Americans don't understand the concept of fate," Caison said.

Kay Cassibry, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, told the astonishing story of being allowed to meet medical needs in the aftermath of the tsunami in Banda Aceh. She and others were allowed to set up in a mosque. Not only were "infidels" allowed in the mosque, but females as well — a real cultural leap forward in Indonesia's Muslim male-dominated society.

"The most important thing we do is share our faith in Christ," Caison said. "We demonstrate and verbalize. Our work has eternal significance."

"The thing most disaster relief workers have in common is a desire to help people," said Don Gann, consultant in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department. "They feel they have a calling from God to be there when the crisis comes."

The Task Force has been enlarged somewhat this year, according to Gann. "We put a high premium on training, because we believe that there is value in

having trained volunteers. Unlike having a 'y'all come' attitude like some other states, we purposely have training annually for our volunteers.

"Responding to a disaster is not your typical mission trip," Gann continued. "There are just some dynamics in play that have to be considered. It's not that you have to be a special person — you just have to have some specialized training. It's not for everybody."

"The interest in disaster relief is at an all-time high, and we're trying to keep our best-trained people ready to serve."

Gann stated that more and more churches were developing their own disaster plans, for both the church and the members. "A lot of churches never give a thought to what they would do if a tornado siren went off," Gann said. "What do you do with the preschoolers, for example?" The Men's Ministry Department has resources available to help churches develop disaster plans.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster relief Task Force is funded by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, and supported administratively by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. Special donations to specific disasters are also utilized by the task force.

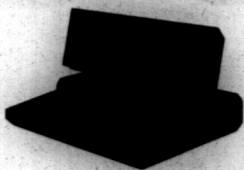
For more information on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-2334 ext. 334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

**MAKING A SPIRITUAL IMPACT** — Mickey Caison, Adult Volunteer Mobilization Manager for North American Mission Board, shares with Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers the difference they can make in victim's lives in a disaster response situation. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

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# A pause to remember the martyrs

**T**his March just passed marked the one-year anniversary of one of Southern Baptists' darkest days, when four International Mission Board (IMB) workers were gunned down during an ambush in the northern Iraq city of Mosul. A fifth worker clung precariously to life in critical condition at a U.S. military hospital in Iraq. IMB identified the dead workers as:

- Larry T. Elliott, age 60, and his wife Jean Dover Elliott, age 58, of Cary, N.C. The Elliots had worked for IMB since 1978, and both died at the scene of the attack.

- Karen Denise Watson, age 38, of Bakersfield, Ca. She had worked for IMB exactly one year, and died at the scene of the attack.

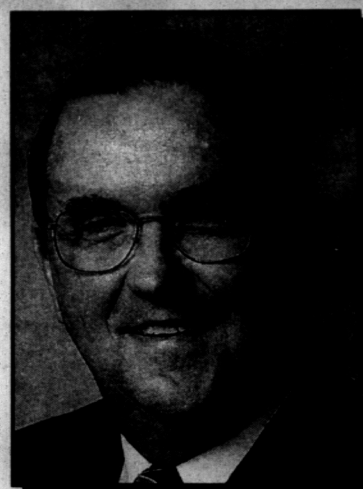
- David E. McDonnall, age 28, of Rowlett, Texas. He died while being transferred to a U.S. military hospital in Baghdad, after surgeons at a military hospital in Mosul worked for six hours to save his life.

McDonnall's wife, Carrie Taylor McDonnall, age 26, was the lone survivor of the attack.

Initial reports from IMB and secular news sources indicate that the five Americans were traveling without escort in one car near Mosul, when a car pulled alongside and the occupants opened fire with automatic weapons and possibly rocket-propelled grenades. An Iraqi policeman came upon the scene some time later, determined that the Elliots and Watson were dead, and transported the McDonnalls to the military hospital, those sources reported.

The five workers were scouting the best location for a water purification project, Michelle DeVoss of First Church in Cary, N.C., told NBC News.

The five knew they were traveling to a dangerous part of the world but decided to press on, said IMB spokeswoman Manda Roten in the NBC report. "Their personal love for God and their desire to obey Him would outweigh any personal risks for them. When you think about



Larry T. Elliott



Jean D. Elliott



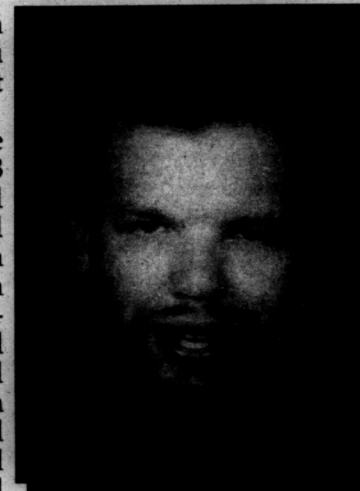
Karen D. Watson

overseas service, and when you sense God calling you to go overseas, safety isn't the primary concern."

Just 14 months before the Iraq ambush, three IMB workers were murdered and a fourth seriously wounded in an attack by a lone gunman at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen. Killed were surgeon Martha Myers, hospital administrator Bill Koehn, and supply manager Kathleen Gariety. Pharmacist Donald Caswell was critically injured but has recovered and returned to the mission field.

Exactly two years ago last month, a powerful bomb placed inside a crowded bus shelter during a rainstorm at the Davao City airport in the Philippines claimed the life of IMB missionary Bill Hyde and seriously wounded several members of another missionary family.

Thus the list of martyrs grows. When these tragedies occur, we are reminded again of the high cost borne by the bold believers who choose to take the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) seriously and follow Christ to the most dangerous places on earth for the



David E. McDonnall



Carrie T. McDonnall

sake of the Gospel. The cost sometimes includes death at the hands of those who despise us, but it has always been so.

Today, Carrie McDonnall pushes forward. "We have to keep going to the hard places. We have to keep going to the violent places. God's call was not to just go to the easy places," she says.

Jesus told his disciples long ago, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first." (John 15:18 NIV) At a time of war and global upheaval like the present, His words have never been clearer.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Taking up the towel*

By Jerry Mixon, Director  
Stewardship Department  
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

missions, but Southern Baptists still believe that servant leadership and taking up the towel can be demonstrated through the Cooperative Program. We can demonstrate our love to the world through this cooperative effort. Take, for example, the recent tsunami that has devastated the coastal areas of Southeast Asia. There are many relief organizations that have gone, and will go, into the area. Most will be there for a short period of time and will do some good. However, over the long haul we know that because of the Cooperative Program, we already have personnel in country and the organizational structure to provide medical, dental, food, clean water, and other basic necessities to sustain life.

We not only will provide immediate help but long-term ministry. We have taken up the towel and will show our love by being servant leaders.

We must also take up the towel in Mississippi. If you were to drive around our state on any given Sunday, you would find about two million people who are not in church. They are not in any church, Baptist or otherwise. In other words, we have more people outside looking in than we have inside looking out. As Mississippi Baptists we must find a way to move outside the four walls of our churches to minister to a lost and dying world around us.

Yes, we must continue to invite people to come to church, but we must also go

to where they are. Servant leaders find a way to motivate church members to be on mission with God every day where we live.

As a pastor, you are also the gatekeeper for your congregation. You are the filter through which all information about the Cooperative Program is funneled to your congregation. As a servant leader you can inform and inspire your church by:

- observing Cooperative Program Sunday on April 10 (or an alternate date).
- ordering Cooperative Program materials such as bookmarks and posters.
- ordering our newest tract, CP — The Mutual Funding Solution.
- leading your church to evaluate Cooperative Program giving and increase support during your fall budget process.

To order Cooperative Program materials, contact the Stewardship Department at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 292-3347, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 347. E-mail: [srobinson@mbcb.org](mailto:srobinson@mbcb.org). All materials are free and shipped postage paid.



# Schiavo dies; judge resigns Baptist church

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (BP, ABP and local reports) — Terri Schiavo, the 41-year-old disabled woman at the center of a nationwide life-and-death debate, died March 31 in her Florida hospice nearly two weeks after her feeding tube was removed on orders from her husband.

Meanwhile, the Florida judge who ruled in favor of Michael Schiavo that his wife's feeding tube should be removed has resigned his membership in a prominent Southern Baptist church.

Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge George Greer reportedly informed Calvary Church in Clearwater that he was officially resigning his membership after receiving a March 10 letter from the church's pastor, Willy Rice.

According to the St. Petersburg Times, Rice wrote that, although he was "not asking [Greer] to do this," that resigning his membership nonetheless "would seem the logical and, I would say, biblical course" given Greer's inactive status in the congregation and his publicly stated disagreements with church decisions.

The pastor's letter to Greer came after a March 6 profile of the judge appeared in the paper. In it, Greer noted that, although he had been very active in the congregation in the past, tensions over the Schiavo issue and others had caused him to stop attending services and contributing financially to the church in the fall of 2003.

Calvary Church is one of the Florida Baptist Convention's most prominent conservative

congregations. Rice, who has been the church's pastor since last fall, has written a guest editorial in the Florida Baptist Witness comparing Schiavo's fate to that of his severely disabled sister.

According to the St. Petersburg paper, Greer's decision to become inactive in the church was sealed by its continued support for the Witness, one of the most conservative state newspapers in the Southern Baptist Convention. Its editor, James Smith, has repeatedly opined against Greer's decisions in the Schiavo case, calling the judge "dead wrong" in one recent editorial.

Calvary purchases group subscriptions to the Witness for church members.

Greer is a Republican whom a "longtime friend" characterized in the St. Petersburg Times profile as being part of "the Religious Right." However, many conservative religious leaders have criticized him heavily for his decisions finding that Schiavo would want to have the feeding tube sustaining her removed.

Rice also reportedly told Greer that he was "truly saddened and embarrassed by the level of harassment and vitriolic nature of so many comments that purportedly come from



REMEMBERING TERRI — Bobby Schindler Jr. (left) speaks to reporters several hours after his sister, Terri Schiavo, age 41, died March 31 at Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla. Suzanne Vitadamo (right), Bobby and Terri's sister, also spoke, while Bob Sr. (center), comforted each of his children as they spoke lovingly of their sister and her legacy. (BP photo)

people of faith," but he added, "you must know that in all likelihood it is this case which will define your career and this case that you will remember in the waning days of life. I hope you can find a way to side with the angels and become an answer to the prayers of thousands."

Rice was unavailable for comment by press time April 1. His assistant directed a reporter to two church press releases dealing with the situation. One notes that Greer's decision to withdraw his membership "was completely voluntary" and that the church would "continue to pray for Judge Greer and all those involved in the tragic case of Terri Schiavo. As we have previously stated, our church has long been committed to the sanctity of human life."

Greer's office did not return phone calls from Associated Baptist Press requesting an interview by press time April 1.

## Record

Shortly after Terri's death was announced, her brother Bobby and sister Suzanne publicly issued an impassioned plea on behalf of the family for supporters to conduct themselves as Christians in honor of Terri's strong faith. They also denounced threats of violence and retribution that had been made by the fringe element of Terri's supporters.

President Bush said March 31 that he and First Lady Laura Bush extend their condolences to Schiavo's family.

"I urge all those who honor Terri Schiavo to continue to work to build a culture of life, where all Americans are welcomed and valued and protected — especially those who live at the mercy of others," the President said. "The essence of civilization is that the strong have a duty to protect the weak. In cases where there are serious doubts and questions, the presumption should be in the favor of life."

## Disabled are anxious

WASHINGTON (BP) — Disabled Americans feel vulnerable in the wake of Terri Schiavo's death and need societal and legal changes if their lives are going to be protected, leaders of two disability organizations said. In the hours after Schiavo died March 31, both Joni Eareckson Tada and Diane Coleman said the brain-damaged Florida woman's death and the events leading to it do not bode well for other severely disabled people unless some changes are implemented. Though Tada said she prays God will use Schiavo's example "to stave off this terrible culture of death and give us a fresh re-energizing to build a culture of life," the popular evangelical Christian author and speaker also said her death "alarms me deeply." "The death of Terri Schiavo will adversely impact literally thousands of Americans who have severe mental incapacities whose legal guardians might not have their best wishes at heart," Tada said on the April 1 radio broadcast of Focus on the Family. Coleman, president of Not Dead Yet, told Baptist Press, "[W]hat we are seeing here is the dismantling of the constitutional rights of people in guardianship. No longer will there be the presumption for life. The social presumption that [Schiavo] would be better off dead appears to have influenced the decisions in the case," Coleman said. "We feel threatened by this, almost as if there is a cognitive test for personhood under the law." Joni and Friends is a Christian ministry to the disabled that Tada started in 1979. She became a quadriplegic in a diving accident at the age of 17. Her testimony of God's work in her life has become well-known among Christians throughout the world. Coleman, a lawyer, founded Not Dead Yet in 1996 to combat assisted suicide and euthanasia on behalf of the disabled. She was disabled at birth and has used a wheelchair since she was 11. Tada said she was lying on her back as she was interviewed for Focus on the Family. She had recently recovered from pneumonia and had been mostly in bed for four or five days with a pressure sore. Shortly before the interview, a friend had fed her by hand. "It underscored how much people like me and people like Terri Schiavo depend on strong advocates to be by our bedside to fight and to protect and to safeguard the protections around people with severe disabilities," Tada said.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

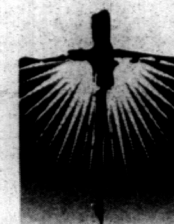
Two Southern Baptist leaders, Richard D. Land and Larry L. Lewis, remove their signatures from a controversial document, Evangelicals and Catholics Together. Land is executive director of the Christian Life Commission and Lewis is president of the Home Mission Board.

### 20 years ago

Although he would like to see "some kind of breakthrough," Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Tex., believes "only an act of God" can save the Southern Baptist Convention.

### 50 years ago

Sand Hills Church, Jones County, in connection with the Simultaneous Crusade, recently held a revival in which the speakers were representatives of six different countries: Cuba, Chile, Brazil, Japan, Philippine Islands, and Jordan.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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## COLLEGE NEWS

The Fifth Annual Battle of the Bands, hosted by William Carey College's Gamma Chi social club, is planned for Apr. 8, 7 p.m., in the Smith Auditorium, Hattiesburg campus. Money raised will be used by Gamma Chi to support the organization's future charitable projects. Several slots for participants are still available. Bands are judged on state presence, presentation, and instrumental abilities. Admission is \$5 for general admission and \$3 for WCC students. Bands interested in competing should contact Dana Allen at (601) 318-6410.

## Correction

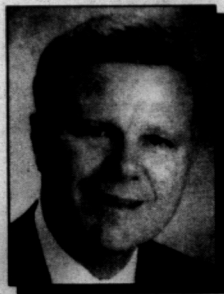
On page 4 of the issue of March 31, in an article headlined, "Rankin Assoc. hosts Ministry Teams seminar," the e-mail address for more information was listed incorrectly. The correct address is sbrewer@rankinbaptists.org. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

## IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS ... YOU'RE STUPID!

Recently, I was walking down the sidewalk and I met a fellow coming toward me with a black t-shirt on with white lettering. The message on the T-shirt said, "If you know what your problem is...you're stupid!" Well, as I walked toward the guy, whom I did not know, I had time to read it and a couple of seconds to think about it. My first reaction was what could he possibly mean by such a statement? Then just in a matter of a few seconds it dawned on me that probably what he was conveying was if you know what your problem is and haven't done anything to change it, then you are stupid.

I did not stop him and have a debate over his T-shirt and its message, but I went on down the street reflecting on it and trying to digest what it really meant. In the course of my thinking about this black and white message the fellow was carrying around on his shirt, I wondered from whence it actually came. Who thought up such an idea? What compelled him to buy it and wear it? I wondered if it was thought provoking to anyone other than me. While I do not have the answers to those questions, I did come to some conclusions about the propaganda on the guy's T-shirt.

One of my conclusions was he is right. The more I thought about it the more I realized that if a fellow knows what his problem is and he doesn't change anything about the problem or



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

himself in relationship to the problem, he is not too bright.

It is sort of like the old story that you may have heard about the fellow who went to the doctor. He took his index finger and poked a certain spot on his body and he said, "Doc, every time I touch that I have excruciating pain." The doctor's simple prescription to him was, "Well, stop touching there." The more I thought about the guy's T-shirt the more I realized that in many cases in my own experience it is true. Many times in pastoral counseling I have told someone what was needed, and the person already knew but still would not change and make things better. Is that dumb? Well, it probably is, but most likely we have all been there at some point or other, and we will probably end up there again.

Further reflection brought me to want to go back and say to the brother with the T-shirt on, "While you may be right, you are also wrong." You see, the reality is that all of us have participated in knowing what the problem is and ignoring any kind of solution. Our earliest parents in the Garden of Eden

clearly knew what the Lord said when He told them, "Do not take of the tree in the center of the garden." What did they do? They took it and disobeyed God. I think the implication on the shirt is that we have a lack of intelligence, but the real problem is that sin has built into it a moral stupidity that all of us have touched and by which we have been touched.

You see, the problems we have resulting from sin are not the result of the intellect or lack there of so much as it is a part of our rebellious nature. Our self-driven, sin-desiring nature pushes us away from God and into problems. At that point the guy's T-shirt or at least its implication is wrong. Even if you come to the place where you know that you have sinned against God, you cannot correct the separation and the terrible problem yourself. You may feel guilty, you may even desire to change, and you may even start doing better, but that does not solve what has already happened. The problem with sin is that only God can cure it.

One other aspect related to sin and its effect on us is rooted

in the truth that sin does not just affect the sinner. No, its death and destruction, its pain and hurt reach far out beyond just the act itself like ringlet waves that go out from a pebble in a still pond. That means that often time the sin, the wrongdoing, and the problems of other folks directly affect you and me. It is important that each of us take responsibility for our own life and our own errors, but there are times when it is the error of someone else that affects others in the family or the community. For the most part we may not have any influence or any control over those decisions.

How many times have you seen little innocent children suffering because of the wrong habits, actions, and lifestyles of a mom or dad? It is hard to get through a day without hearing about some tragedy that took the life of a person or even a family in a car accident as some drunken driver illegally got on the road and plowed into a car that was just cruising down the highway. Again, the problem we have may not be correctable by us.

Here is the bottom line. You know what your problem is, so take it to God. He is able to meet your need, forgive your sin, and even take the impact from others that has touched your life and weave it into something good in the days ahead. He is the miracle worker. He is our Savior. He is our solution.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



## Making preventive care affordable. Making a difference.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 7, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## OLDER CHILDREN'S Bible Drill Camp 2005

Mississippi  
BIBLE  
DRILL



For Church Groups of Boys  
and Girls Grades 3 - 6  
(completed)

\$45 Deposit with Registration  
Total Cost \$90

**July 7 - 9 Central Hills Baptist Retreat**

For info: 601-292-3287 or 1-800-748-1651

## "MISSISSIPPI CHRIST FOLLOWERS"

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8**

8 a.m.-noon Ministry Projects\*  
3:30-4:30 p.m. Prayer & Share Celebration  
5-6:15 Missions Banquet  
6:30 Worship Celebration & Acts 1:8  
Commissioning Service  
Featuring: Dramatist: Laurita Miller

For info contact  
the WMU  
601-292-3319  
or  
1-800-748-1651.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board Breakfast  
8:45-10 Conferences  
10:15 Worship Celebration & Business Session  
Featuring: Mississippi Choctaw Women's Choir  
1:00 p.m. Adjourn

\*AMC 2005 Ministry Projects

**One Person Giving One Day = One Changed Life**

PrayerWalking, Ministry to the Military, New Church Starts, Acts of Kindness Ministry,  
Minor Repairs/Painting, Community Outreach

During AMC 2005, you will have the opportunity to participate in ministry projects all across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Ministry Projects will be planned for Friday, April 8, from 8 a.m.-noon. There is no cost, but registration is required.

## STATE SINGLE ADULT RETREAT

May 28-30 • Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

### MEN'S CONFERENCE

- Led by Randy Impson, pastor, Calvary BC, Starkville, & former singles minister

### WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- "Discovering God's Will" led by Gwen Williams (Miss Chocolate), New Orleans

### OTHER CONFERENCES:

- Picking Up The Pieces • A Servant Heart
- Truth Through Humor

(more conferences will be announced at a later date)

### EVENTS

- Seafood Banquet
- Afternoons free with options for a trip to New Orleans to do missions or for other fun trips

## STATE SINGLE/SINGLE-AGAIN CONFERENCE

June 17-18 • Temple BC, Hattiesburg

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DIANNE SWAIN

Fresh Spirit Ministries, North Little Rock, Ark.  
author of "My Divorce Hurts Worse At Church"

### CONFERENCES:

- Divorce • Never Married • Widows • Single Parenting

Cost: \$10, includes lunch

(Registration deadline is June 13 for meeting/meal.)

If not preregistered, you may pay \$5 at door but will not include meal. For more information call Phillip at 601-544-1794.

For more info, contact Glenn Shows: Phone, 601-292-3373 or  
1-800-748-1651 or E-mail, gshows@mbcb.org.



## LAD/CRUSADER DAY

April 16

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko

Cost: \$4

Bring a sack lunch (drink provided)

### • Best Chapter Award

• RA Racers

• Show & Tell

• Speak-Out

• Mission Project/Banner Competition

• Campcraft & Field Competition

Answer  
Tell  
Change

FOR INFO: Phone: 601-292-3335 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 335



**FAMILIES!!!**

## **FAMILY WEEK**

**Monday, July 4—7**

### **Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**

**Special Guests: Brad Brecker Family Band  
Judy Marby-Vaughn, Ventriloquist**

#### **Conferences**

**Preschool/Children Teamkids**

**Teenagers: Mini Centrifuge**

**Adult Conferences: Single Parenting**

**College Conference**

**Couples: Brad & Pam Becker, Shepherd's Rest,  
"Servanthood Evangelism For The Family"**

**Register through Gulfshore: 228-452-7261**

### **Camp Pastors & Worship Leaders**

**May 23 – 27**

**Jeff Holeman**

**Chris Layton**

**May 30 – June 3**

**Jon Daniels**

**Kevin Williams**

**June 3 – 7**

**Roger Reeder**

**Will Reedy**

**June 7 – 11**

**Gary Permenter**

**Kevin Williams**

**June 11 – 15**

**Ricky Young**

**Will Reedy**

**June 16 – 20**

**Grant Stegall**

**Tom Edwards**

**June 20 – 24**

**Robert Mullins**

**Tom Edwards**

May 23-June 24

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
P.O. Box 1000, Gulfport, Miss.

Gulfshore Youth Weeks program information: Harvey Ellis  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 286, or 601-292-3286

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly reservation information:  
Frank Simmons, 228-452-7261

## **2005 Preaching & Worship Conference**

Monday, April 25, FBC, Biloxi

Tuesday, April 26, Highland Colony BC,  
Ridgeland

### **PASTORAL PREACHING**

Featured Presenters

Frank Lewis

Blake Scafidel

For more info, contact Pastor Leadership Development at:  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

### **HIRING, FIRING, AND SUPERVISING**

**This seminar deals with issues related to ministerial and non-ministerial staff.**

Thursday, April 21, 2005, 9:00 a.m. – noon

SkyRoom, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
515 Mississippi St., Jackson, Miss.



**Attorney and minister Jeff Rimes of Wells, Marble, and Hurst law firm will be leading the seminar. Jeff also is president of a non-profit legal consulting group called "Rendering Ministries" that offers its services to churches at free or reduced charges.**

**This seminar is free of charge but please register in advance (no later than Friday, April 15) so that adequate materials can be provided.**

**To register, contact the Christian Action Commission:  
E-mail [rwood@christianaction.com](mailto:rwood@christianaction.com) or phone  
601-292-3329 (toll free at 1-800-748-1651)**



## SENIOR ADULTS...APRIL 12 RALLY CANCELLED!

Rescheduled for May 3

Emmanuel BC

Grenada

Contact Barry: 662-226-5312

**CANCELLED!**

**CANCELLED!**

**CANCELLED!**

**CANCELLED!**

## Literacy Missions

can assist churches and associations in scheduling a workshop and providing workshop leaders for:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Adult Reading and Writing (ARW)
- Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY)
- Chronological Bible Storying (CBS)

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTIST



LITERACY  
MISSIONS

*Something new being offered: English as a Foreign Language (EFL) is designed for Christians preparing for a one-week to three-month mission trip to a non-English speaking country.*

## NEXT SCHEDULED WORKSHOP:

**WHAT:** ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

**WHEN:** April 21-23, 2005

**WHERE:** First Baptist Church, Cleveland  
101 North Bolivar Street  
Cleveland, MS 38732

**TIMES:** Thursday & Friday – 6:00-9:30 p.m.  
Saturday – 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**COST:** \$25 (covers manual and meal)  
\$5 (if you already have manual)

**DEADLINE DATE TO REGISTER: APRIL 11**

### CONTACT PERSON:

Mrs. Emily Smith or Mrs. Barbara Kent  
662-843-2701 – Church Office  
[fbcclleve@cablone.net](mailto:fbcclleve@cablone.net)

**CHECKS:** Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church with "ESL Workshop" on the memo line.

### WORKSHOP LEADERS:

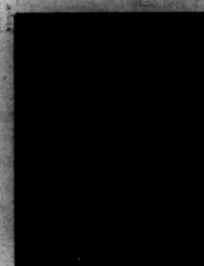
Mrs. Frances Rogers, Brandon, Miss.  
Mrs. Jeanne Eppes, Waynesboro, Miss.

*For more information about any of the workshops and resources offered contact:  
Literacy Missions Ministry, Paula Smith, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 336. [psmith@mbcb.org](mailto:psmith@mbcb.org)*

# SuperSummer

MISSISSIPPI  
July 11-15, 2005

## REGISTER NOW!



David Platt  
Speaker



Chris Layton  
Worship Leader

**CALL TO  
REQUEST A  
REGISTRATION  
PACKET**

Call us at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 313, or  
E-mail us at [bbridges@mbcb.org](mailto:bbridges@mbcb.org)

## Senior Adults

### STATE SENIOR ADULT RETREATS

#### Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

*To register, call 228-452-7261.*

**Retreat I, May 10-13 (4 days)**

Ferris Jordan

**Retreat II, May 16-18**

Joe Sherrer

**Retreat III, May 19-21**

Joe McKeever

**Retreat IV, September 27-29**

J. Garland McKee

### STATE SENIOR ADULT RALLY

**Thursday, August 25**

**FBC, Jackson**

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Cost: \$1 payable at the door

Speaker: Phil Waldrop, Alabama

Music: Brad Becker and Family Band  
Arkabutla, Miss.



# Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

## April 8-21, 2005

"Let us never forget that the greatest thing we can do for God or for man is to pray. For we can accomplish far more by our prayers than by our work."

*THE KNEELING CHRISTIAN by an Unknown Christian*

For: (1) Cooperative Program Day (MS Emphasis) (2) Missionaries Frank and Julie Lamea ask for prayers for the people in the apartment building ministry in Tumbes, Peru. They now have a place to meet together as a church, but need to reach more of their family, friends and neighbors with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For: (1) Bible Drills, Temple BC (West), Hattiesburg; Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (D&FM); (2) Roger Skipworth, director of missions for the Hattiesburg County Association, Kentucky, requests prayer for the 43 churches in his area, for ample supplies for the crisis closet and food pantry and for a new Christian life center.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) There are many, many people in Bulgaria who have been deceived through a false spirit of religion, traditions and empty rituals. Pray that Bulgaria will be freed from all these deceptions. Pray that the people will see and understand the true Spirit of the living God.

Jonathan Pettigrew serves in collegiate evangelism on the campuses of Indiana University and Purdue University in Indianapolis. Pray that his encounters with students will lead to witnessing opportunities and for many students to be saved and become involved in the Baptist Campus Ministry organization.

For: (1) Bible Drills, Hernando BC, Hernando; FBC, Gulfport, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) The Chuabo Team of Mozambique needs a couple to come and work with them to reach a group that is very isolated. Pray that God will send the right people to come and help the team with this need.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Annual Missions Celebration, FBC, Biloxi, 1 p.m., 8th-noon, 9th (WMU); (3) Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 7 p.m., 8th-10:30 a.m., 10th (CLGM).

For: (1) Bible Drills, Alta Woods BC, Jackson; Ridgecrest BC, Madison, 9 a.m.-noon (D&FM); (2) Pray for the Quichua lay leaders of Ecuador who give of their precious time and resources to bring the gospel to their people, asking that they will experience true joy and peace in serving the Lord.

The New Testament will soon be released in the two key Kurdish languages of Central Asia, Kurmanji and Sorani. Due to a limited literacy rate, it cannot be read by the majority of the Kurdish population, so several ministry organizations are developing "Oral Bibles" in both key languages. Pray for development of this ministry too!

Continue to pray for new believers O. and M. who moved to another city in Mexico last December. They have requested a missionary in this new city to teach the Bible in their home and are willing to open their home to others. Ask the Lord to use this opportunity to form a new church in their new neighborhood.

Jim Young, Dallas, Texas, is director of the Center for Community Ministries for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He assists churches in ministry evangelism efforts. Pray for the development of a victim memorial center and hospitality house in Huntsville to minister to crime victims and their families.

Team UFA (oo-FAH) asks us to pray for the Sipailovo district of Ufa, Russia. "Sipailovo is home to 100,000 souls, yet has no Christian church or witness. Pray for God to unify the international, multi-denominational team as we distribute Christian literature and invite Sipailovo's residents to evangelical films and Bible studies, and that churches might result."

For: (1) Campers on Mission, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 5 p.m., 21st-noon 23rd (MM); (2) State Literacy Training, North Miss., 3 p.m., 21st-5 p.m., 23rd (WMU); (3) Please pray today for President Abel Pacheco of Costa Rica (Central America).

For: (1) Young Musicians Adjudication, FBC, Clinton (CM); (2) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 15th-16th (WMU); (3) Pray for new believers among the Black Bono people of Mali to be able to stand against the spiritual forces that will seek to turn them back into the darkness.

For: (1) Young Musicians Festival, Mississippi College, Clinton (CM); (2) Lad Crusader Day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, MM; (3) Speakers Tournament, FBC, Clinton (D&FM); (4) Selection Tournament, FBC, Clinton (D&FM).



## This summer your youth can worship and communicate the gospel through

- Praise Band
- Art
- Choral Singing
- Signing
- Drama
- Handbells
- Playing Instruments
- Voice
- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Part-singing
- Interpretive Movement

## at HeartSong

The music and worship arts camp

for 7-12 grades

June 28 - July 2

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Pass Christian, Miss.

Cost: \$16750 per person

(includes lodging, meals, insurance, music and T-shirt)



For registration contact: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 228-452-7261

For program information: Church Music Department

1-800-748-1651, ext. 274, or 601-292-3274 or

E-mail: scluttrell@mbcb.org

6/2/89

Miss Rebekah C. Clark

Parents: Richard and Wanda

Church Planting:

Central & Eastern Europe

6/3/86

Mr. Joel T. Martin

Parents: William & Cynthia

General Evangelism:

South America

6/3/86

Miss Lauren E. McCall

Parents: Dennis & Margaret

Agriculture: CESA

6/3/04

Miss Margaret R. Wingo

Parents: Floyd & Sylvia

General Evangelism:

South America

6/6/86

Miss Charissa B. Hearon

Parents: Thomas & Bonnie

Student Evangelism:

Western Europe

6/12/96

Miss Audrey L. Young

Parents: Steven and Laura

Student Evangelism: Middle

America & The Caribbean

6/22/94

Miss Mary K. Young

Parents: Steven and Laura

Student Evangelism: Middle

America & The Caribbean

6/28/89

Miss Charissa L. Fortenberry

Parents: Robert & Margaret

General Evangelism: CESA

### PLEASE NOTE

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

### FOR SECURITY,

cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name

MBCB Stewardship Dept.

PO Box 530

Jackson MS 39205

# HOUSE TOPS



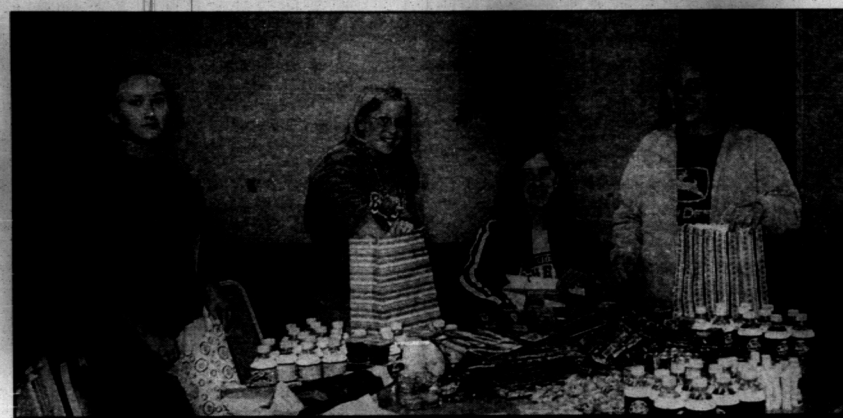
## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Cuchens Family, First Church, Newton



2. Perfect Attendance, Lorena Church, Smith County



3. Junior Acteens, Enterprise Church, Enterprise

### REVIVALS

**Unity, Georgetown:** Apr. 8-10. Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Keith Smith, Bogue Chitto, speaking; Ken Hedgepeth, Wesson, music. Jerome McLendon, pastor.

**Oak Grove, Smith County:** Apr. 10-13. Sun. 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Frankie Clark, First, Taylorsville, preaching; Dale Townsend, First, Taylorsville, music. John Barnes, pastor.

**Canaan Church, Columbus:** Apr. 10-13. Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. R. C. "Dickie" Bryan, evangelist; Scott Oswalt, music; David Westmoreland, pastor.

**Gunter Road Church, Florence:** Apr. 10-13. Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Allen Stephens, Bill Perry, Bill Chancellor, Dale Holloway, and Gene Jordan, speaking; Curtis Carter, music; Gene Jordan, pastor.

**Mt. Horeb Church, Meridian:** Apr. 10-15. 7 p.m.; Jim Hill Family, evangelistic team; Nick Holden, pastor.

**Salem Church, Tylertown:** Apr. 17-20. Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. with a covered dish lunch following the morning service. Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m. Buddy Day, guest speaker; Rob Schepers, music. Mark Wicker, pastor.

**First Church, Nettleton:** Apr. 17-20. Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lynn Jones, Booneville, evangelist; Keith Dowden, pastor.

**Becker Church, Becker:** Apr. 17-22. Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7 p.m.; the Hill family, Laurel, evangelistic team.

**Knox Church, Tylertown:** Apr. 22-24. Fri.-Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Shane Freeman, Tylertown, evangelist; Adrian Woods, Tylertown, music; Jim Ennis, pastor.



4. Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Northside Church, Vicksburg



**LifeWay BUS SALES**

Buses provided for LifeWay by

**Carpenter Bus Sales**

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

1. **First Church, Newton**, celebrated the 20th anniversary of Randy Cuchens, Minister of Music and Senior Adults. Cuchens has been on staff at Newton since Feb. 1985. Shown are Cuchens, daughters Jessica and Jennifer, and wife Susan.

2. **Lorena Church, Smith County**, recognized members with perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are Ricky Warren, Carrie Harrison, Sharon Taylor, Preston Harrison, Nina Harrison, Albert

Harrison, Sue Bailey, and pastor Tommy Anderson.

3. **Junior Acteens from Enterprise Church, Enterprise**, sent Valentine care baskets to senior adults in February. Shown, from left, are Lauren Jenkins, Abby Lee, Megan Lewis, and Andi Katherine Kersh. Sandi Bilello and Alisha McMillan are their teachers.

4. **Northside Church, Vicksburg**, held their annual Easter egg hunt Mar. 25. Shown are the participants.



**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.*



**April 16, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Central Hills Baptist Retreat — Kosciusko**  
**Cost \$4 • Bring a sack lunch**  
**(drink provided)**

**Answer**  
His Call

**Tell**  
His Story

**LAD/CRUSADER DAY 2005**

**LAD/CRUSADER DAY 2005 REGISTRATION FORM**

**REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED:**

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_

Church address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Phone No. (Day and Night) \_\_\_\_\_

\$4 x \_\_\_\_\_ (RAs & RA leaders) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Registration fee includes limited supplemental insurance, drinks, and facility costs.)

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

**MAIL TO:**  
LAD/CRUSADER Day, Men's Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
Phone: (601) 292-3335 in Jackson or  
(800) 748-1651, ext. 335, www.mbcab.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27 • Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242 • E-mail: bcvl@misnet.com  
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 1-31, 2005

### HONORS

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Ouida Barnes' SSC, FBC-Natchez  
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Sue & Heywood Washburn  
Rev. John L. Walker  
Mrs. Edwin B. King  
Mr. & Mrs. Josh Walker & Men of Small Group  
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Vivian Warren  
Mrs. Dotie Buchanan  
Laney Whitten  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Whitten Jr.  
Mary Chae Whitten  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Whitten Jr.

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Herman Broadwater  
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Elsie Brown  
Cathy Campbell  
Carole C. Lockwood  
Nelda Strong  
Harold A. Brown  
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Jean Brown  
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Mr. Frank Monroe Bryant  
Emma Bert  
Audrey Dear  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn A. Miles  
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Gleaners SSC-Pilgrim's Rest BC  
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R. L. Burrow  
Mrs. R. L. Burrow  
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Barbara Caldwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. J. B. Lewis  
Amos A. Calender  
Joan C. Calloway  
Mrs. Frances S. Kemp  
Ed Campbell  
Berwick BC-Gloster  
Trinity Nicole Callender  
Mrs. Tena Haskins  
Ruth Carlton  
The James May Family  
Robert E. Carney  
David Wise SSC, Dixie BC-Hattiesburg  
John S. Carr  
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Mrs. Myrl McCormick  
Mr. Cecil Carr  
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Mrs. Frances Cartrett  
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Hope SSC, FBC-Louisville  
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Fara Smith Cotton  
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Mike Winstead  
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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Impartial Love

James 2:1-13

By Rick Henson

Human nature prefers wealthy people to poor people. The old saying, "nothing succeeds like success," shows that we love a winner. If a pro football team begins to win games, it gains many new fans, but loses them with a losing season. James 2:1-13 warned the first century believers not to show favoritism to the wealthy. James painted a picture of a church service where a man wearing expensive jewelry and clothing entered and was treated better than a dirty poor man wearing shabby clothing. He wrote that when we show partiality we are guilty of the sins of judging thoughts, and of respecting persons. In Matthew 19 the rich young ruler came to Jesus inquiring about eternal life. He went away sad when he learned

that it would cost him his all. The Bible says that he was very rich. If that rich man came to most churches today and said what he said to Jesus, we would make him the treasurer within a month. Jesus rejected this man, however. Jesus taught in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Obviously the rich young ruler's heart was not in service to Christ but to his vast wealth.

James pointed out that it is the wealthy who oppress the poor, and who blaspheme the name of the Lord. Research by the Barna Group shows that today the wealthy are much less likely to believe the Bible or claim to be a Christian. Even more surprising is that many Christians do not understand their ultimate goal of life.



Henson

George Barna asks, "How is it possible to have more than 120 million adults attending Christian churches on a regular basis, but only 15 million who grasp the message that success is not about personal accomplishment or material possessions?"

James wrote that the sin of partiality is as destructive to our relationship with the Father as the sins of adultery or murder. If we commit any sin we are transgressors of the law. Jesus said in Matthew 23:23, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." The Pharisees were so particular about tithing, as they should have been, but left out God's will. We are shocked to hear that a believer commits a grievous sin, but hardly

notice favoritism and usually wink at it.

Once years ago I filled in for a minister of music friend of mine. Though I was a pastor, I led worship in a revival one night for my friend. The evangelist was not very friendly to me. He spoke to me with terse words and condescending looks. Obviously he did not hold ministers of music in high regard. After the service when the pastor of the church introduced me as a local pastor, the evangelist changed his attitude and was suddenly gregarious and appreciative. I understood that a minister of music cannot invite an evangelist for a revival, but a pastor can. When he realized that I might consider him for a revival his attitude changed. I surprised him and the pastor when I told the evangelist that if he would not speak to me when I was a minister of music, he could not speak to me as a pastor. James challenged the first century church to value all people, regardless of social status.

The apostle Paul wrote in

I Corinthians 1:26, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." God has chosen the weak, the poor, the foolish, and the base of this world. When God works through these, He gets the glory. He alone deserves the glory. We learn in 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." Through the Lord Jesus we find wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. All of eternal value is a gift from God through Jesus. So then why are we so impressed with temporal accomplishments and those who have them? When we see all people as Jesus does, what each person has or does not have will become irrelevant.

Rick Henson is pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Conform to the Lord's Purpose

Jeremiah 18:1-17

By Billie Buckley

Again we turn back to Jeremiah. Did you say, "Oh, that's the book in my Bible with nothing underlined?"

May I suggest some words under which to draw lines in Jeremiah 18:2?

"Arise and go." Take action. This is our part. We must choose to get up and go from where we are to where God is moving.

"I will cause you." Resulting from our correct free-will decision, God goes into action if we make the right choice. He won't go with you on a wrong choice road.

"Hear My Words." God's Words were revealed by an object lesson about a potter who had the right to mold his

creation. Today God's Words are revealed by His Holy Spirit.

In our lesson today, Jeremiah needed to take action before the Lord would reveal to him what to do and say. We also need to take action by co-working with the Holy Spirit to do three things: recognize His ownership, make right choices, accept their consequences.

Let's Acknowledge the Lord's Sovereignty (vv. 1-6) or be persuaded His thread runs through all of life. You simply know this great truth of sovereignty without attempting to analyze it to death.

God spoke, "Go to the potter's house."

Here Jeremiah was to find the potter working at his wheel, shaping and reshaping the clay.



Buckley

More than that, he was to find a model sitting for a picture of God's working sovereignty.

Jeremiah's earthly potter was the model for the Great Potter's absolute right to work the clay into the image He had in mind.

You do realize Jeremiah was no sentimentalist. Here he is talking firmly to the people of Judah. "You are not going to get anything from God unless you maintain a right relationship with Him. Stay in His hands even if you think it is destroying you."

This picture includes the clay. Here we see a limitation in the translation. Clay can't make choices. People can. So, it's up to us to choose His sovereign plan and live it.

Let's Apprehend the Significances of Choices. (vv. 7-10) Today, to gain correct information, we can listen to excessive self-centered chit-chat; or we can listen to the

Word. This information from God's Word will help us make correct choices with our mysterious gift of free-will.

God is reminding them, "I can pluck you up, break you down and destroy you. Or I can relent and reverse my decision and rebuild and plant. The choice is yours."

Maybe at this point we need to be honest. This study is a wild, rough road. There is no way to whitewash it or dress it up for a tame Sunday School lesson. Yet, God forbid, we have placed these harsh truths on the back burner of our time frame in Bible study and turned down the flame. In its place we may have turned up the flames of long sick list and lengthy fellowship. Then there is not much time or not much flame left for His word. The choice is yours as a teacher.

Let's Accept the Invitation to Repent or the Consequences. (vv. 10-17) Ray Stedman in his comments on Jeremiah talks about the two "sighs" of God in

these verses. They are found in verse 10 and in verse 15.

In verse 10 we hear God's sigh of relief when He tells Jeremiah, "I will relent or reverse my decision." Now God never changes his purpose, but our praying can move God into action. That is sovereign, too. Why? He set it up that way.

As our potter He brings pressure to mold us to fit the design. God breathes a sigh of relief when we yield to His wheel.

In verse 15 we hear God's sigh of sorrow over these words and attitudes, "Forget it, God. We will not submit to your hand."

Can't you hear God's sorrowful sigh as He says, "I must walk away from our face-to-face relationship. All you will see is my back" (His disapproval.)

The choice is yours to hear: God's sigh of relief or God's sigh of sorrow.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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EWH GVKH VR TVO,  
GVMSCT RVN EWH  
DHNLI VR VXN GVNO  
UHPXP LWNSPE XCEV  
HEHNCBG GSRH.

UXOH EYHCEI-VCH

Clue: U = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Six: Sixty-Five.

### MS POSITIONS

**PART-TIME YOUTH/CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Antioch Baptist Church, Brandon, Mississippi. Seeking a part-time youth and children's minister. Please send resumes and references to Antioch Baptist Church, 2350 Hwy 43 S., attn: youth/children's search committee, Brandon, MS 39042.

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**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH,** Brookhaven, MS is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. If interested, please send resumes to Friendship Baptist Church, attn: music minister search committee, 1502 Friendship Lane NW, Brookhaven, MS 39601. You can also send resumes via fax: (601) 833-5688 or email friendship5603@bell-south.net.

**DANIEL MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking an organist for the Sunday services in south Jackson. Send resumes to personnel committee chairman, Janet Peden, Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

# BWA to consider Texas, Va. memberships

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP) — The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) will be recommended for full membership in the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), the group's membership committee reported on March 9.

British Baptist Alistair Brown, who sits on the membership committee, said it is "the committee's unanimous view that both be recommended" to the BWA General Council to become full member bodies of the worldwide umbrella group for Baptists. Brown's report came during the BWA's semi-annual Executive Committee meeting March 9 at BWA's suburban Washington headquarters.

Both state groups relate to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), as well as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and other nationwide missions organizations.

The BGAV and BGCT are already major financial contributors to BWA and both already joined the North American Baptist Fellowship, one of BWA's

six regional groups but the recommendation, if approved by the BWA's General Council during its meeting in July, would mean the two state conventions would become members on the same level as CBF, the American Baptist Churches, or any of the 200-plus other national or regional Baptist groups that make up BWA's membership. They would be the first U.S. state conventions to join.

The moves by the two conventions come after the SBC voted last year to leave the global fellowship. "Both bodies express sadness at the withdrawal from membership from the BWA of the Southern Baptist Convention," Brown told the assembled BWA leaders, "and they said that the withdrawal from the BWA had removed from them a means of fellowship with Baptists from around the world."

BWA rules require that member bodies not be an integral part of any other Baptist denomination in their countries. However, Brown said the committee felt both BGAV and BGCT meet that requirement. "In each case, they were founded before the estab-

lishing of the SBC, and neither has ever seen themselves as part of the SBC," he said. "Both grant freedom to churches to apportion giving to a variety of causes for missions work overseas."

Virginia Baptist chief executive John Upton, who was present for the vote, told Associated Baptist Press that Brown's statement reflected a slight misunderstanding of their application. "We see ourselves as a partner of the SBC and always have seen ourselves as a partner of the SBC.... but we're an autonomous body," Upton said. "We're very excited about being a part of BWA and we value our partnership with the SBC, and we don't see a conflict between the two."

Likewise, Charles Wade, Texas Baptist executive director, attempted to clarify that group's relationship to the SBC in a statement released through a spokesperson. "While it is true that every state convention is free and autonomous — as is every Baptist entity — we have had and continue to have a relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

In other news, BWA leaders heard a positive financial report. Despite large reductions in the group's budget over recent years — including a \$425,000 annual loss as a result of the SBC withdrawal — the group's revenue in 2004 was more than

\$500,000 greater than in 2003. And BWA came in more than \$561,000 over budget for 2004.

Ellen Teague, BWA's finance director, attributed much of that increase to generous giving by local churches. Last year, BWA began allowing local churches to become "associate members," and more than 300 local churches — including SBC congregations — have sent contributions directly to BWA.

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